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• India played Pakistan in an ODI fixture in Dubai in 2018, beating them by nine wickets • India have played a total of six ODIs (no T20Is) in Dubai

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India-Pak: Old charm, new challenge

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2021

This is perhaps one of the greatest rivalries in sports. As expected, the excitement is palpable, so is the anticipation. India open their World Cup campaign in Group 2 against rivals, Pakistan, in Dubai. Here's a look at the match-up...

FIRST MEETING IN OVER TWO YEARS
With an impasse over the two countries' bilateral sporting relations, the two cricketing sides play each other only in ICC events. The last time they played was in 50-over World Cup in 2019 (India won). India have never lost to Pakistan at any World Cup.

SPOTLIGHT ON KOHLI
Having announced that he would step down as T20 captain after this edition, Kohli will be under pressure. For all their bilateral prowess, India are yet to win an ICC event under him. This could well be his last opportunity. MS Dhoni as mentor could help him.

WATCH OUT
INDIA: Rohit Sharma, KL Rahul, Jaspreet Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja
PAKISTAN: Babar Azam, Shadab Khan, Imad Waseem, Shaheen Shah

In T20 WC: India 5 Pakistan 0

TODAY'S MATCH
Bangladesh vs Sri Lanka (3.30 pm in Sharjah) | India vs Pakistan (7.30 pm in Dubai)

CAN'T MISS THE ACTION
Well, it's not just cricket in the desert. Fans across the globe would be eagerly waiting for some of world's intriguing and fascinating contests in various sporting disciplines on Sunday

PREMIER LEAGUE: Liverpool vs Manchester United | 9.30 pm, Star Sports Network
LA LIGA: Barcelona vs Real Madrid | 7.45 pm, Voot
SERIE A: Juventus vs Inter Milan | 12.15 am, Voot
FORMULA1: US Grand Prix (final) | 12.30 am, SSN
BADMINTON: Denmark Open | SSN

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Shah asks agencies to crush militancy

Says J&K statehood will be restored after elections

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

ON his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir since Article 370's revocation, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday talked tough while reviewing the security situation after the recent targeted killings. He asked security agencies to devise a strategy to end militant recruitment and militancy and prevent civilian killings.

Shah, who is on a three-day visit, sought inputs from security officials on measures taken to prevent radicalisation of youth and local militant recruitment. "The security agencies must devise a strategy to end militant recruitment and militancy in J&K," he told the officials.

According to sources, Shah was upset over the recent civilian killings, including that of five migrant workers and three minority community members. He asked security officials to ensure the safety of civilians.

Sources said J&K Lt Governor Manoj Sinha, senior army commanders, J&K police chief, director-general of the CRPF and BSF, and top officials of intelligence agencies apprised the home minister about the prevailing security situation.

Addressing youth clubs in Srinagar, Shah asserted that those who wanted to derail J&K's peace would be dealt with sternly. "Nobody will be allowed to obstruct J&K's path of development." Shah said the scrapping of Articles 370 and 35A and the bifurcation of J&K indeed blunted terrorism. "From 2004-2014, 2,081 civilians were killed. Every year, 208 civilians were killed. After 2014, 30 civilians were killed per year," he said.

Amit Shah visits the family of martyred J&K police officer Parvez Ahmed, in Nowgam | PTI

Highlighting that the youth can play a major in ending militancy, he said, "Militancy and development cannot go together. Development needs peace. The government can make efforts to end militancy but it is the responsibility of the youth to act as ambassadors of peace and development and tell people that violence can never be the path of development."

Spelling out the Centre's roadmap on J&K, the Home Minister said after the completion of delimitation, elections would be held and then statehood would be restored. P10

Handing over HAL Airport to BIAL on cards

PRAMODKUMAR VAIDYA @ Hubballi

HOPES on the revival of HAL Airport for domestic operations were rekindled on Saturday by Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi, who said that handing over the airport to Bengaluru International Airport Ltd (BIAL), which manages the Kempegowda International Airport, is under consideration.

Responding to a demand during an infrastructure meeting here, Joshi said that he and Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai have already spoken to Union Civil Aviation Minister Jotiraditya Scindia about the need.

> Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai and I have spoken to the Civil Aviation Minister. It is a well-stated policy of the Centre that doing business is not a business of the government
>
> Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs

The state government has been pushing for the reopening of HAL Airport, which was shut in 2008, for civilian traffic through BIAL for the last several years.

The facility is now being used by military aircraft, VIP and chartered flights. As the HAL Airport is in the heart of the city, all sections of people and the business community have been demanding that domestic operations be resumed here. It is argued that since the Kempegowda International Airport is far from the city and passengers are facing inconvenience, reopening of HAL Airport would be a win-win for all.

However, an agreement between the Ministry of Civil Aviation and BIAL does not allow any operation of commercial flights within the 150 km radius of KIA for 25 years, which is till May 2033. P4

Madhugiri court warrant against Varavara Rao

ENS @ Tumakuru

THE fourth additional district and sessions court at Madhugiri in Tumakuru district recently issued a non-bailable warrant (NBW) against revolutionary poet Varavara Rao for not appearing before it in a case concerning the massacre of six KSRP men by Naxalites on February 6, 2005 at Venkatammanahalli of Pavagada taluk. P8

NCB busts two major drug syndicates, nabs 6

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

THE Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), Bengaluru zonal unit, has busted two major drug syndicates in the last three days.

The Central anti-drug agency has seized commercial quantity of MDMA pills, methamphetamine, methaqualone in Bengaluru besides 3 kg of pseudo-ephedrine from Hyderabad, which was concealed in lehengas, said NCB zonal director Amit Ghawate.

Six people have been arrested in the two cases under the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985 and one car has been seized. CONTINUED ON: P7

KERALA CPM WANTS NO TRUCK WITH CONGRESS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ TPuram

DIFFERENCES within the CPM over joining hands with the Congress at the national level sharpened further with Kerala Left leaders opposing the stance of the party's Bengal unit that there can't be a strong Opposition alliance without the Grand Old Party.

The ongoing CPM central committee meeting in Delhi on Saturday saw Kerala CPM reiterating its stiff opposition towards any truck with Congress. The issue is important for the CPM, which is finalising its tactical line for the 2024 polls.

The tussle between Kerala and Bengal units could also mar the chances of general secretary Sitaram Yechury, who supports the Bengal line, getting a third term. According to Kerala CPM, the Congress is not sincere in fighting communalism. Also, it is struggling to survive even in states where it is in power. Having such a party as the leading partner would only backfire, Kerala CPM leaders feel.

Left leaders from Andhra and Telangana are also against a Congress-led Opposition, sources said.

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